

Lincoln, NE Continuum of Care – Requests for Applications for Inclusion in the 2021 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

Invitation to Bid

Eligible organizations¹ are invited to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2021 Collaborative Application to HUD. The only entities that may submit a renewal application are current HUD CoC grantees that have a grant with an end date in calendar year 2022. Additionally, to be eligible for renewal, an existing grantee must enter into a contract with HUD for FY 2020 funding prior to December 31, 2021. Any eligible organization may apply for new project funding.

All new and renewal applications must be completed using HUD's online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. **Applications must be submitted in E-SNAPS by the following schedule:**

- **Renewal project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on September 24, 2021**
- **New project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on October 8, 2021**
- Applications not submitted according to the above schedule may not be considered for funding.

Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here: <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/resources/bos-coc-ne-500>. Information posted on the website includes:

- The NOFO published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review and ranking of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications.
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application.** Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2022 may submit a renewal application. The total funds requested must match the ARD shown for the project in the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). The project component, numbers of units, numbers and types of persons served, and the total budget line must be fully consistent with the expiring grant. Please note that the renewal process is not the time to make significant changes to grants, which can only be accomplished through the grant amendment process.

¹ Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are ineligible to apply.

- All renewal projects that have at least one full year of operational experience will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding. Those projects without a full year of operational experience will be ranked without score and in a position to promote funding.
- **New project application.** New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing where 100% of the beds are either dedicated to serving chronically homeless or (if the project includes households with children) DedicatedPLUS² projects.
 - Rapid Rehousing projects serving individuals and families who meet the definition of homelessness according to categories 1, 2, or 4 of the HUD homeless definition.³
 - Joint TH-RRH projects serving individuals and families who meet the definition of homelessness according to categories 1, 2, or 4 of the HUD homeless definition. The TH component should consist of short-term crisis housing and the resources earmarked for the RRH component should be twice those designated for the TH component.

Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation.

New project applications may submit a new project requesting 1 year of funding but with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. This will permit the project to start-up and become fully operational. New project applicants are encouraged to consider a longer initial grant term for the first year to allow for grant start up and to fully expend the funds.

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application may be submitted as a 'transition' application – this was a new option for the 2018 competition. A transition application will start the program year as one component (TH) and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. No more than 50% of the project funding may be used for the prior component and at the completion of the program year, the project will renew under the new component. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a 'voluntary' reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC.
- **Consolidated Application.** Also continued from last year, a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH) may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to ten grants could be consolidated through this process. To

² DedicatedPLUS is defined here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3284/what-is-a-dedicatedplus-project/>

³ A quick reference guide to the homeless definition categories is found here: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project; the renewal grant with the earliest start date will be the ‘surviving grant’ and all others will be ‘terminating’ grants. Each renewal will indicate whether it is ‘surviving’ or ‘terminating’. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD will fund the new project in lieu of the renewal grants.

- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a new project application that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provides additional units, or provides additional services to existing program participants. HMIS and coordinated entry may also be expanded. Applicants seeking an expansion grant must submit: the renewal project application for the existing grant and indicate in that grant the intent to expand; and a new project application identifying the expansion. If HUD selects the expansion, the project will take the ranked position of the renewal project.

Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

Again, this year, applications may be submitted for a new type of bonus project: a **Domestic Violence Bonus Project** in which all persons served are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The following types of new projects may be submitted for the DV Bonus – please note, all projects applying for the DV bonus are required to use trauma informed and victim centered approaches as well as Housing First:

- Rapid rehousing exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.
- Joint TH-RRH projects exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.

There is no limit on the number of DV bonus projects that may be submitted provided: that the amount requested does not exceed the amount available to the CoC for the DV bonus and that no project is for less than \$50,000.

Expanded Eligibility for Youth and Youth-Serving Providers

The consolidated appropriations act of 2021 expanded the ability of ‘youth serving providers’ [private non-profits with a primary mission to serve youth aged 24 and under] to serve youth. Under the 2021 NOFO any youth-serving provider can serve youth 24 and under who have an unsafe nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. Additionally, youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third party documentation that they meet the homeless definition. Applicants meeting the definition of ‘youth-serving provider’ should note the expanded ability to serve youth in need.

Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application. The new projects will be evaluated according to criteria set by HUD in the project rating tool found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5292/project-rating-and-ranking-tool/> .

The primary factors affecting the ranking of renewal projects have to do with project performance and the extent to which the project is contributing to an overall improvement in the CoC's system performance. Projects submitted by victim services providers are evaluated based on data from non-HMIS comparable systems regarding housing and income outcomes and on the extent to which the project improved the safety of participants.

Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC by contacting Jeff Chambers (jchambers1@unl.edu) and request assistance in understanding program requirements or the application process. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

Presentation and Question and Answer Session for New and Renewal Applications:

- Renewal application webinar: September 2, 2021
- New project application webinar: September 14, 2021

Interested parties may access this session by emailing Alex Labenz (alabenz@unl.edu) for presentation material.

Funding Amounts

In the FY 2021 NOFO, applicants may apply for up to

- **\$126,622 in Bonus Funding**
- **\$251,867 in DV Bonus funding**

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Funding

- The sum total of funding in Tier 1 is **\$2,532,442**, which is the total of all CoC renewal grants [
- Tier 2 equals the funds available for bonus or \$126,622